

WOAH Reference Laboratory Reports Activities 2025

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LABORATORY INFORMATION

*Name of disease (or topic) for which you are a designated WOA Reference Laboratory:	Contagious equine metritis
*Address of laboratory:	Animal and Plant Health Agency, Merrythought, Calthwaite, Penrith, CA11 9RR, UK
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*E-mail address:	Laura.Florea@apha.gov.uk
Website:	
*Name (including Title) of Head of Laboratory (Responsible Official):	Jason Sawyer Phd
*Name (including Title and Position) of WOA Reference Expert:	Laura Florea, Veterinary Adviser, APHA CEM disease consultant
*Which of the following defines your laboratory? Check all that apply:	Governmental

TOR1: DIAGNOSTIC METHODS

1. Did your laboratory perform diagnostic tests for the specified disease/topic for purposes such as disease diagnosis, screening of animals for export, surveillance, etc.? (Not for quality control, proficiency testing or staff training)

Yes

Diagnostic Test	Indicated in WOA Manual (Yes/No)	Total number of test performed last year	
		Nationally	Internationally
Indirect diagnostic tests			
Direct diagnostic tests			
Culture	Yes	5510	0
PCR	Yes	459	0

TOR2: REFERENCE MATERIAL

2. Did your laboratory produce or supply imported standard reference reagents officially recognised by WOA?

No

3. Did your laboratory supply standard reference reagents (nonWOAH-approved) and/or other diagnostic reagents to WOA Members?

No

4. Did your laboratory produce vaccines?

No

5. Did your laboratory supply vaccines to WOA Members?

TOR3: NEW PROCEDURES

6. Did your laboratory develop new diagnostic methods for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

7. Did your laboratory validate diagnostic methods according to WOA Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

8. Did your laboratory develop new vaccines for the designated pathogen or disease?

9. Did your laboratory validate vaccines according to WOAHA Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

TOR4: DIAGNOSTIC TESTING FACILITIES

10. Did your laboratory carry out diagnostic testing for other WOAHA Members?

No

11. Did your laboratory provide expert advice in technical consultancies on the request of an WOAHA Member?

No

TOR5: COLLABORATIVE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES

12. Did your laboratory participate in international scientific studies in collaboration with WOAHA Members other than the own?

Yes

Title of the study	Duration	Purpose of the study	Partners (Institutions)	WOAHA Member Countries involved other than your country
Taylorella equigenitalis: insights into genomics and transmission across European countries	14 months (application and first meeting occurred in 2025)	CoVetLab project: This project aims to improve laboratory methods and promote harmonization across the collaborating institutes with focus on characterization of the genomic diversity of T. equigenitalis in Europe, and knowledge exchange and harmonization of protocols between countries. We will link genetic data to epidemiological factors like breed and animal movement to understand transmission dynamics.	APHA UK, ANSES France, SSI Denmark, SVA Sweden, WBVR The Netherlands	DENMARK FRANCE SWEDEN THE NETHERLANDS UNITED KINGDOM

13. In exercising your activities, have you identified any regulatory research needs* relevant for WOAHA?

No

TOR6: EPIZOOLOGICAL DATA

14. Did your Laboratory collect epidemiological data relevant to international disease control?

Yes

If the answer is yes, please provide details of the data collected:

As contagious equine metritis is a reportable disease in UK, the APHA Reference Laboratory collects epidemiological data for all confirmed positive UK cases of CEM . This data includes tracings of movements and control of disease.

15. Did your laboratory disseminate epidemiological data that had been processed and analysed?

Yes

If the answer is yes, please provide details of the data collected:

The epidemiological data collected by the NRL (as per answer to question 14) is shared with the exporting country and WOAHA (for infected horses), as well as being disseminated through peer-reviewed papers, national/ international conferences, and national disease reports, when applicable.

16. What method of dissemination of information is most often used by your laboratory? (Indicate in the appropriate box the number by category and list the details in the box)

a) Articles published in peer-reviewed journals:

0

b) International conferences:

0

c) National conferences:

1

Attendance at BEVA congress

d) Other (Provide website address or link to appropriate information):

4

<https://equinesurveillance.org/landing/>

TOR7: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

17. Did your laboratory provide scientific and technical training to laboratory personnel from other WOA Members?

No

TOR8: QUALITY ASSURANCE

18. Does your laboratory have a Quality Management System?

Yes

Quality management system adopted	Certificate scan (PDF, JPG, PNG format)	
ISO 17025	Pdf.	ISO 17025.pdf
ISO 9001	Pdf.	ANIMAL PLANT HEALTH AGENCY - Certificate UK013916 - ISO 9001 - exp. 25-07-2026.pdf

19. Is your quality management system accredited?

Yes

Test for which your laboratory is accredited	Accreditation body
CEMO PCR	UKAS
CEMO Culture	UKAS

20. Does your laboratory maintain a "biorisk management system" for the pathogen and the disease concerned?

Yes

The contagious equine metritis (CEM) national reference laboratory (NRL) has an auditable and fully working biological risk management system in place which ensures the whole laboratory is in compliance with applicable local, national, regional, and international standards and requirements for biosafety and laboratory biosecurity (in accordance with the WOA Terrestrial Manual, Chapter 1.1.4). It also follows local Risk Assessments and Standard Operating Procedures.

TOR9: SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

21. Did your laboratory organise scientific meetings related to the pathogen in question on behalf of WOA?

No

22. Did your laboratory participate in scientific meetings related to the pathogen in question on behalf of WOAHP?

No

TOR10: NETWORK WITH WOAHP REFERENCE LABORATORIES

23. Did your laboratory exchange information with other WOAHP Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen or disease?

Yes

24. Are you a member of a network of WOAHP Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen?

Yes

NETWORK/DISEASE	ROLE OF YOUR LABORATORY (PARTICIPANT, ORGANISER, ETC)	NO. PARTICIPANTS	PARTICIPATING WOAHP REF. LABS
CoVetLab	Participant CoVetLab (Collaborating Veterinary Laboratories) - a partnership of national veterinary public health institutes from Denmark, France, The Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom.	5	ANSES - France, APHA - UK

25. Did you organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with WOAHP Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen during the past 2 years?

Yes

Purpose of the proficiency test:	Role of your Reference Laboratory (organiser/ participant)	No. participating Laboratories	Participating WOAHP Ref. Labs/ organising WOAHP Ref Lab
Test reliability and staff competency Taylorella equigenitalis -culture and PCR PT0102 (non UK)	Organiser/ participant	30	ANSES - France (participant), APHA - UK (organiser through VETQAS/ participant)

26. Did your laboratory collaborate with other WOAHP Reference Laboratories for the same disease on scientific research projects for the diagnosis or control of the pathogen of interest?

Yes

Title of the project or contract	Scope	Name(s) of relevant WOAHP Reference Laboratories
Taylorella equigenitalis: insights into genomics and transmission, across European countries	CoVetLab project: This project aims to improve laboratory methods and promote harmonization across the collaborating institutes with focus on characterization of the genomic diversity of T. equigenitalis in Europe, and knowledge exchange and harmonization of protocols between countries. We will link genetic data to epidemiological factors like breed and animal movement to understand transmission dynamics.	ANSES - France, APHA - UK

TOR11: OTHER INTERLABORATORY PROFICIENCY TESTING

27. Did your laboratory organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with laboratories other than WOAHP Reference Laboratories for the same pathogen during the past 2 years?

Yes

Purpose for inter-laboratory test comparisons ¹	Role of your reference laboratory (organizer/participant)	No. participating laboratories	Name of the test	WOAHP Member Countries
				BELGIUM, CANADA, CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK, FRANCE, HONG KONG, IRELAND, ISRAEL, ITALY, KOREA (DEM. PEOPLE'S. REP. OF),

Ian Mawhinney - - UNITED_KINGDOM

Test reliability and staff competency Taylorella equigenitalis -culture and PCR PT0102 (non-UK)	Organiser/ Participant	30	Taylorella equigenitalis -culture and PCR PT0102	MOROCCO, QATAR, SLOVENIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, THE NETHERLANDS, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED KINGDOM,
Test reliability and staff competency Taylorella equigenitalis/Klebsiella/Pseudomonasculture PT0104 (non-UK)	Organiser/ Participant	12	Taylorella equigenitalis/Klebsiella/Pseudomonasculture PT0104	FRANCE, HONG KONG, IRELAND, ISRAEL, ITALY, SOUTH AFRICA, UNITED KINGDOM,
Test reliability and staff competency Taylorella equigenitalis ring trial - culture and PCR PT0062	Organiser	11	Taylorella equigenitalis ring trial - culture and PCR	AUSTRIA, DENMARK, FRANCE, GERMANY, HONG KONG, IRELAND, SINGAPORE, SOUTH AFRICA, SWITZERLAND, UNITED KINGDOM,
PT0161(UK): BEVA approved labs proficiency testing	Organiser	12	Taylorella equigenitalis PCR	FRANCE, GERMANY, IRELAND, UNITED KINGDOM,
PT0103(UK): BEVA approved labs proficiency testing	Organiser	20	Taylorella equigenitalis culture	FRANCE, GERMANY, IRELAND, UNITED KINGDOM,

TOR12: EXPERT CONSULTANTS

28. Did your laboratory place expert consultants at the disposal of WOA?H?

No

29. Additional comments regarding your report:

Yes

A lot of the international activities the WOA Reference Laboratory at APHA engages in are dependent on other WOA member states requiring such interactions. The APHA reference Laboratory is very keen to provide expert advice and technical consultancy when needed, as evidenced by the national/ international proficiency testing organised, the disease consultant's active role in the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) board, advising on CEM disease and technical matters for the BEVA Laboratory Registration Scheme (dealing with all British laboratories testing for CEMO, Klebsiella pneumoniae and Pseudomonas aeruginosa), and the active role within the CoVetLab European partnership we have with France (WOAH reference laboratory for CEM), Sweden, Denmark and The Netherlands.

While providing scientific and technical training to laboratory personnel from other WOA Member States is one of the essential activities of a WOA Reference Laboratory (question 17), this is conditional on WOA members requiring such training to be provided and then reaching out. Although we encourage opportunities for engagement and stride to maintain a close working relationship with CEM laboratories across the globe, including other reference laboratories (as per previous collaboration with ANSES, France and our CoVetLab participation), our CEM reference laboratory has received no requests for scientific and technical training from WOA member states during 2025. The APHA Reference Laboratory has a long history of networking and collaborating with other CEM WOA Reference Laboratories (e.g. ANSES in France) or WOA member countries (CoVetLab), however time/finances/ongoing projects and staffing constraints on all sides, as well as national/ political priorities (CEM is not notifiable/ reportable in most countries) and exotic notifiable disease outbreak demands impede these collaborations at times.